1	2	3
Sikkim	5.00	3.30
Tamil Nadu	3.54	4.70
Tripura	3.90	1.40
Uttar Pradesh	4.67	3.00
Uttarakhand	3.50	3.00
West Bengal	5.09	4.00
ALL-INDIA:	4.00	4.00

Drought in North India

3040. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister held an urgent meeting to discuss rain woes and reviewed monsoon and crop situation in Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the main points discussed and whether drought threat looms over North India and the first alarm bells ring as paddy sowing is down 25 per cent and oilseeds 50 per cent; and

(c) if so, the concrete steps and measures Government proposes to take to tackle the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), during South-West Monsoon 2009 (1.6.2009 to 22.7.2009), the country as a whole received 298.7 mm of rainfall against normal average rainfall of 368.8 mm, with a deviation of -19%, which is considered as Normal. Out of 36 meteorological sub-divisions in the country, 4 received excess rainfall, 13 received normal rainfall, 17 received deficient rainfall and 2 received scanty rainfall, during the period. The States, which received deficient/scanty rainfall during the period include Bihar, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. While the Governments of Assam and Manipur have declared drought/drought like situation in all the districts, Jharkhand has declared drought in 4 districts and Uttar Pradesh has declared drought in 47 districts. The deficit rainfall had some impact on sowing operations, primarily paddy. The situation arising out of deficit rainfall during South-West Monsoon, 2009 and its impact is regularly monitored at the highest level of the Government and steps have been taken, which include preparation of contingency plans, supply of additional quantity of seeds, ensuring availability of fertilizers, giving flexibility to the States to utilise the funds available under crop development programmes, issue of advisories to States, etc.